

'IT CAN BE DONE'

Network Cites Racial Gains In Atlanta

"Now there is an atmosphere of freedom. You feel more like an individual . . . a man." This statement by Dr. Benjamin Mays, president emeritus of Morehouse College, reflects Atlanta's progress in achieving racial equality—the subject of a penetrating ABC News documentary, "It Can Be Done." The special hour program in the network's Time for Americans series will be broadcast on Thursday, July 3, at 10 p.m., in color on WQXI-TV, Channel 11.

Filmed entirely in Atlanta during a ten week period this past spring, "It Can Be Done" is a candid examination of the city's gradually changing attitudes — the change in image from one of the Confederacy to that of the liberal new South.

Paul Jones is on vacation

ABC cameras contrast a sparsely attended Ku Klux Klan parade in downtown Atlanta with the futuristic skyline of the city.

BLACK AND WHITE

ABC news correspondent Mal Goode interviews Atlanta's black and white business, civic, and religious leaders on their efforts to break down social and economic barriers. Heard are Mayor Ivan Allen Jr.; State Rep. Julian Bond; Opie Shelton, executive vice president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; Richard Rich, president of Rich's; A. H. Sterne, president of the Trust Company of Georgia; Lonnie C. King, head of the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP; Bob Waymer, former director of Sum-Mec, an EOA center; Herbert Jenkins, Atlanta Chief of Police; and the Rev. William Holmes Borders, pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist Church.

The differences which have repeatedly distinguished Atlanta are appraised as well as the future direction of the city. Chief Jenkins explains the workings of the Crime Prevention Bureau, a program in which all Atlanta policemen train as "community service officers" in the black community. Opie Shelton discusses the total commitment of the Atlanta business community, and ABC points out the strong personal involvement of Mayor Allen and the special pride that characterizes Atlanta.

Particularly frank statements are made by Calvin Craig, former United Klan Grand Dragon of the United Klans of America, who explains why he turned in his robes to work for the Model Cities Program, and Mayor

Allen in his discussion of a black mayor in Atlanta.

But, "It Can Be Done" confirms that there is still much to be achieved. Cameras show the conditions existing in Vine City as Rep. Julian Bond assesses the problems of the members of his constituency. Bond takes his own man on the street poll asking people what they think of Atlanta. One citizen stated, "I think it's one of the greatest cities on earth."

Black leaders, in a round table discussion, provide a provocative look at America's white society and the problems inherent in racial equality. Participating are the Rev. Samuel Williams, professor of philosophy at Morehouse College; Dr. Otis T. Smith, president of the Summit Leadership Conference; State Sen. Leroy Johnson, and Lyndon Wade, executive director of the Atlanta Urban League.

Narrator Mal Goode, the grandson of slaves, traces the Atlanta he has visited for the past 30 years, and attributes the city's evolution to former Mayor William Hartsfield, journalist Ralph McGill, and Mayor Allen.

Lastly, Martin Luther King Jr. is seen at a banquet honoring his receiving of the Nobel Prize, at which time he quoted the words of an elderly Negro preacher . . . "Lord, we ain't what we ought to be. We ain't what we want to be. We ain't what we gonna be. But, thank God, we ain't what we was."

ABC's material was partly based on WQXI-TV's award-winning summer series, "Atlanta Responds," produced by assignments editor Van Redmond.

"It Can Be Done" was written and produced for ABC News by Arthur Holch. Photographer was Chuck Pharris. Executive producer for Time for Americans is Stephen Fleischman.

EOA

critical of the board's ability to communicate adequately with residents of economically deprived neighborhoods.

to silence their critics, was prepared by a citizens committee staffed by EOA officials.

SEEK UNDERSTANDING

"It is EOA's role to staff citizens committees without telling them what to think but to move them toward more complete understanding and consideration of alternatives of action open to them," Parham said.

Details of the report, compiled by the education subcommittee of EOA's Citizens Central Advisory Council, were published in the June 18 editions of The Atlanta Constitution.

When he released the report Tuesday, John H. Calhoun, who is a paid official of EOA, commented that he has tried unsuccessfully for almost three months to obtain permission to present the subcommittee's recommendations to the school board.

Calhoun, EOA's coordinator for community development, said residents of Mechanicsville have been waiting three years for a response to the Mechanicsville Improvement Committee's proposal for dealing with absenteeism in their schools.

Parham said recommendations in the report were discussed in May when subcommittee members met with two members of the school board and "three top school administrators."

The EOA executive administrator said the work of the subcommittee is supposed to "expand communication from representatives of poor neighborhoods to school officials and to increase mutual understanding."

RESIGNED

Parham, who resigned his post with EOA last week, said the Atlanta school system works "very positively and cooperatively with EOA in many areas."

He said the development of

community schools, an early joint venture, is one of the "few projects carried on by local agencies after OEO (the federal government's Office of Economic Opportunity) funding was removed."

Parham pointed out that the city school system has participated in the establishment of the Parent-Child Center and the Atlanta Concentrated Employment Program Training Center.

He said the schools have contributed to the summer recreation program and the Atlanta Adolescent Program.

Parham said 12 schools are

being used this summer to prepare 44,000 snacks served to economically deprived children in the Special Summer Feeding Program.

There has been "good inter-agency cooperation on a school-absenteeism project in the Northwest Perry area," Parham said.

He said the school system has always operated the Summer Head Start program on a large scale and has made facilities available for VISTA tutorial projects.

"Only recently, space in the old Pryor Street School was

made available to house the Southside Child Development Center," Parham stated.

He said it was his intention to "remove any implication from the June 18 article that EOA-city school relationships were negative."

Parham added that he was not "in any sense repudiating the honest work and feelings of our citizens committee."

He commented that "only as the community is aware of their (the citizens of Atlanta) thoughts and feelings can it make the appropriate responses and accommodations when necessary."

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